Northern Development Commission

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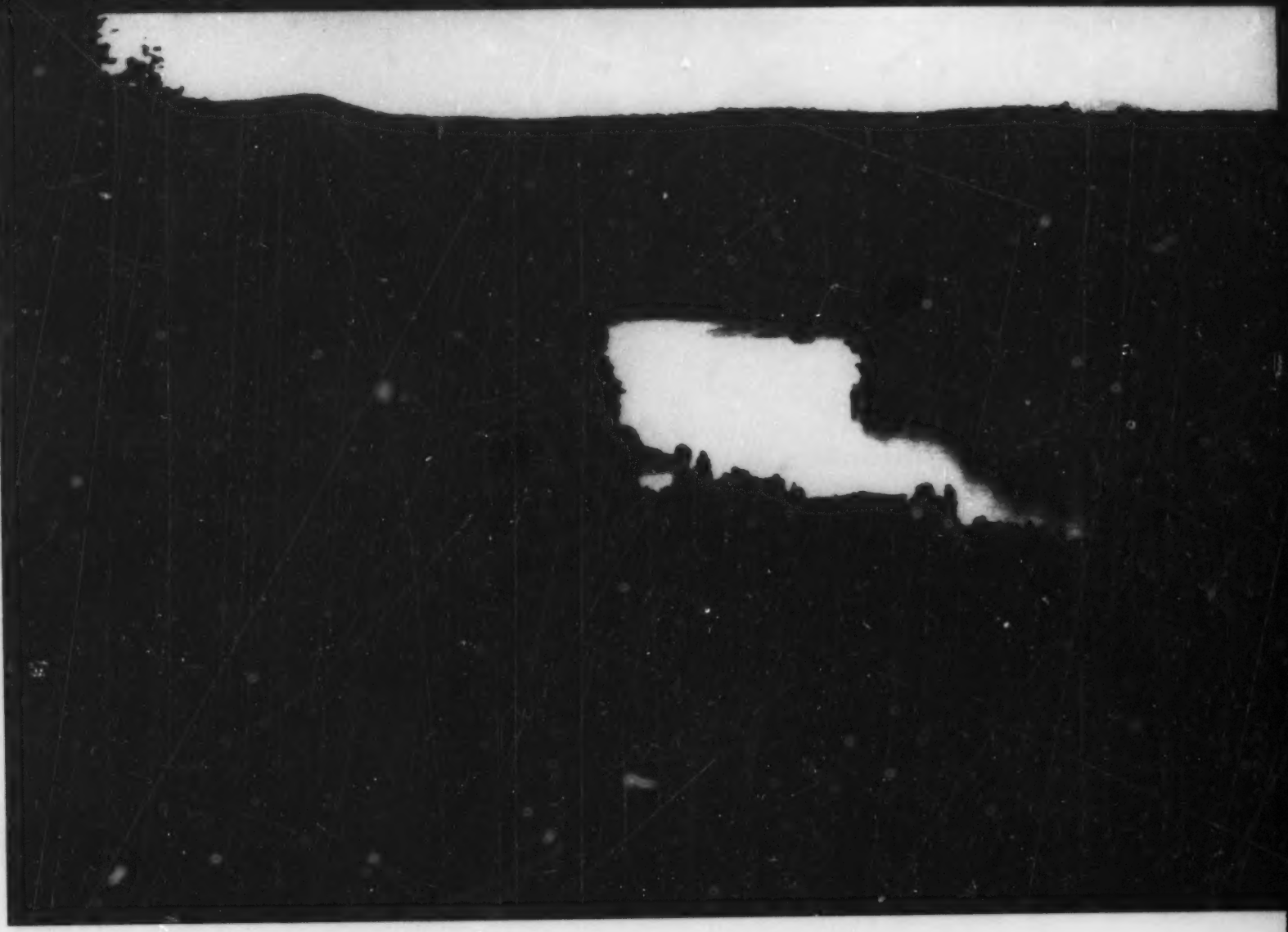


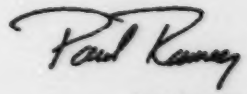
letter

minister's letter

I am pleased to present the second annual report of the Northern Development Commission. Since its inception in 1998, the Commission, which was created by the demand of northern residents, has been the primary agency responsible for promoting the economic development of the North.

As part of our northern development plan, we continue to invest in upgrading key northern roads. We have also unveiled a plan to strengthen B.C.'s mining industry, which is key to the northern economy. Major economic shifts take years, sometimes even decades, to become established, and I believe northerners recognize this. Each of us plays a role in shaping our future in the North, and we need a receptive attitude to change; investment; access to global markets; a skilled labour force; and supporting suppliers and services to move ahead and diversify the economy of the North.

Through the Northern Development Commission and various provincial government offices, we are supporting a stronger northern economy.



Paul Ramsey
Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations and Minister Responsible for Northern Development

letter commissioner's letter

Most of B.C.'s wealth continues to be generated from our natural resources and this is especially true in the North. Primary resource extraction and processing, which includes forestry, agriculture, fishing, mining, and oil and gas operations continues to provide the economic base supporting northern communities. New resource-based opportunities are also beginning to present themselves in tourism and value-added processing opportunities. While these established yet thriving industries look to sustainable growth, the most expansive opportunities lie in our human resources – the people who make the North what it is today - people who will shape its future. Increasingly, people are turning to self-employment initiatives, starting small businesses and offering innovation in service and product delivery. The high standard of talent in the North will ensure these ventures succeed.

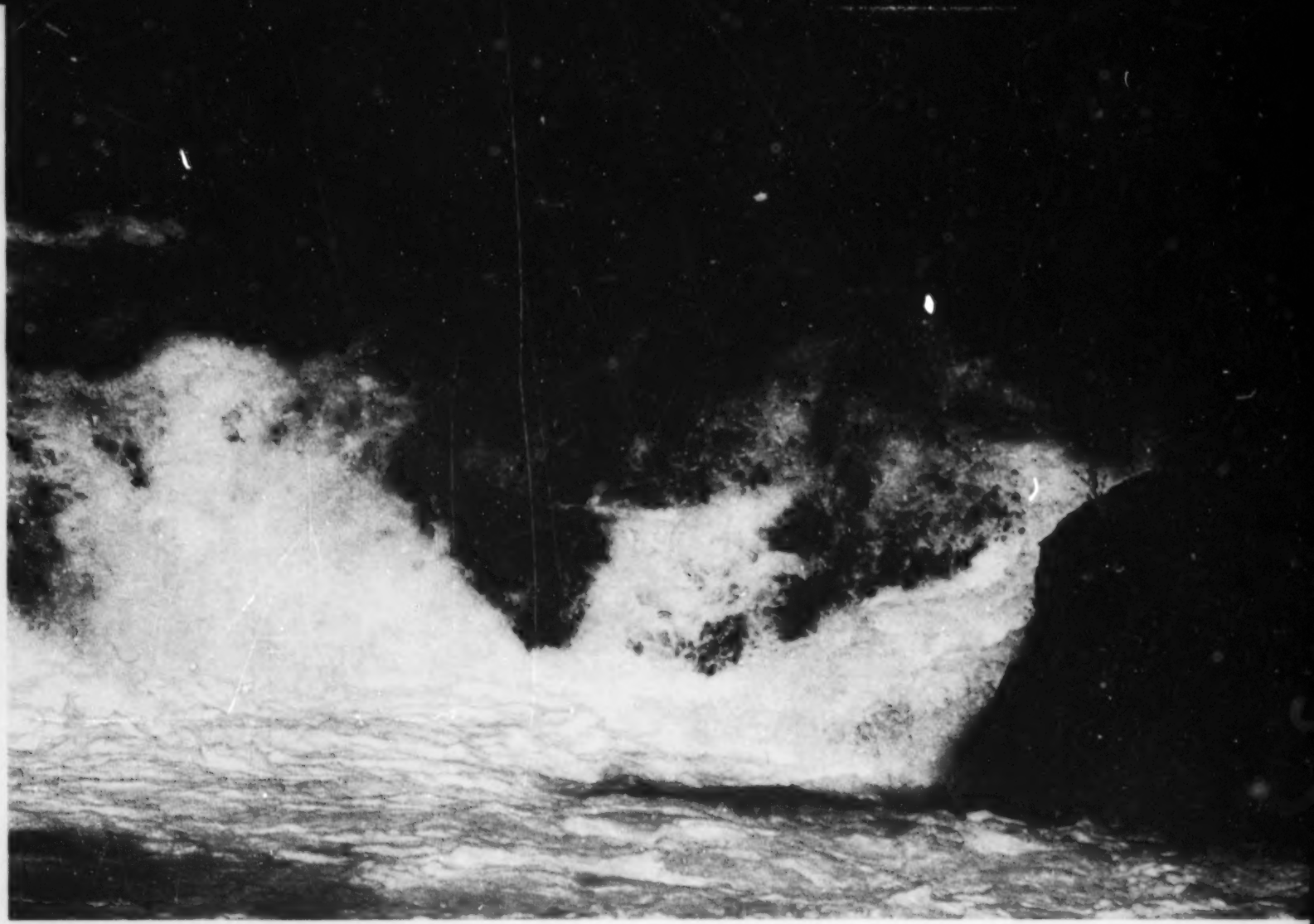
Much of our activity in the first nine months of operation focused on gathering the resources needed to deliver on the goals of the commission: hearing first-hand the interests and issues facing northern communities, recruiting staff and developing policies, building networks and relationships and responding to the needs of communities. During the 1999/2000 year, my focus expanded to assist with more community-led initiatives, building on the foundation developed earlier and working closely with communities throughout northern British Columbia.

In many instances, the commission is a first stop in a referral process to appropriate services offered by community and government organizations. I would like to acknowledge the support my office receives from senior levels of government in Victoria. At the municipal level, this commission and the North Central Municipal Association entered into a protocol of recognition that formalizes our commitment to working co-operatively with municipal governments on economic development and job creation. Closer to home, I take pride in the dedication and diligence of my staff in meeting the goals and objectives of this commission.

Economic development is inevitably a slow process that sometimes seems even slower in times of economic tension. The North is faced with the challenges of cyclical markets for resource industries, global price and demand determination, and the socio-economic realities of smaller rural communities. Understanding this context, my office will continue to meet the challenge of assisting with economic growth and diversification in northern British Columbia. Each new enterprise contributes to economic stability, growth and a brighter economic picture for our region and province.

Input from local communities is important and indispensable in developing our business activities and I intend to take direction from northern communities in this regard. The Northern Development Commission will continue to help northern British Columbians realize future opportunities that reflect their interests and aspirations.

John Backhouse
Northern Development Commissioner



our goals call to action

Our Goals

The Northern Development Act was passed on June 30, 1998. Under the act, the northern development commissioner's responsibilities are to:

- Be an advocate for northern economic development
- Identify and promote private-sector investments in traditional resource-based industries and new value-added or high-tech industries
- Co-ordinate with activities of government departments and other agencies to facilitate economic development projects in the north
- Advise the government on job creation and economic development strategies in the north.

participation

The Northern Development Commission works with the following community and business groups to develop successful economic strategies and explore business opportunities.

B.C. Knowledge Development Fund

- The B.C. Knowledge Development Fund focuses on creating and enhancing research infrastructure in order to promote job creation and economic development within the province.
- The committee reviews proposals from public post-secondary institutions, teaching hospitals and non-profit agencies.
- As a member of the external review committee, the northern development commissioner ensures that northern proposals receive fair consideration for funding.

Canadian Rural Partnership

- The Northern Development Commission is an active member of the B.C. Rural Team, a joint initiative of the Canadian Rural Partnership.
- The B.C. Rural Team is a federal – provincial partnership designed to explore opportunities for improving service to rural British Columbians.

Cassiar Land and Resource Management Plan

- The commission's role is to advise and ensure that economic development strategies adopted co-ordinate with and uphold other initiatives.

Northern Inter-agency Management Committees

- The committees evolved from land and resource management plans.

North Central Municipal Association (NCMA)

- The NCMA is a consortium of municipalities from across northern B.C.
- NCMA and the Northern Development Commission entered into a protocol agreement of recognition May, 1999.

Northern B.C. – Japan Investment Forum

- The forum's objectives are to establish links for government, industry and business with a northern focus.

Northwest Corridor Development Corporation

- The commissioner participates in planning for the economic potential of road, rail, air, pipeline, telecommunications and marine facilities for the corridor.
- In partnership with the Northern Alberta Development Council, the Northern Development Commission contributed to a Northwest Corridor Capability and Opportunity study.

Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)

- The commissioner liaises with UBCM to champion northern issues as appropriate.
- UBCM adopts policy resolutions to forward the interests of British Columbia municipalities.

Yellowhead Highway Association

- The commissioner supports the B.C. caucus of the Yellowhead Highway Association and participates in their annual conference.
- The association focuses on developing the full potential of the Trans-Canada Yellowhead Highway corridor.

consultations

consultations

The Northern Development Commission regularly consults with northern residents regarding key issues in the North.

Economic Development Forum Meetings

The commissioner created three separate administrative areas and divided the northern region into three geographic sections.

In partial fulfillment of the commissioner's mandate to consult with northern British Columbians, two regional economic development forums were held in each administrative region during the reporting period. All forums were well attended by local participants who displayed enthusiasm for the roundtable discussions as well as the presentations. The regional economic development forums are an important component in developing the commission's business plan.

Northeast Region

- There were two forums in the Northeast region: one in Fort St. John in September and one in Chetwynd in February.
- The roundtable discussion on local opportunities and challenges was extremely informative for the Commissioner and regional participants.
- Presentations included topics covering recreational tourism, government economic development programs, and value-added opportunities in agriculture.
- The September forum included a priorities identification session for the north-east region.

North-Central Region

- The region held forums in September in Valemount and in February in Vanderhoof.
- Participants discussed projects under development in each community at both forums.
- The forums covered topics such as: collaboration in planning economic development, infrastructure for community development, realistic expectations for growth in tourism, the benefits of building with wood, accessing customers through the internet, programs available for start-up businesses through Community Futures Development Corporations, local community kitchens, and determining market needs in the wood value-added sector.

Northwest Region

- Two forums were held with Economic Development Practitioners in the northwest: the first in Prince Rupert and the second in Smithers.
- Practitioners came from throughout the region representing communities from as far as Atlin and Lower Post as well as larger centres such as Kitimat.
- The group identified issues and concerns that affected their communities, such as the downturn in the forestry sector and the difficulties of developing a tourism industry without the daily ferry service from Port Hardy.
- There was acknowledgement for work done by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to upgrade and improve Highway 37 to the Yukon border.

Other Consultation

Other consultation included networking at local conferences, meetings with mayors, Chiefs, councillors and regional directors, and ongoing contact with regional practitioners by the commissioner and his staff.

A key initiative of the Northern Development Commission was the participation in the Cassiar Land Resource Management Planning process. This process began in 1997 and was given the difficult task of coming to a consensus on land-use issues by the end of 1999. The process took somewhat longer than anticipated, but the group reached a consensus in February 2000. This agreement is the basis for the future economic and land development planning in the region. A key reason for the success of the Cassiar was the participation of the Tahltan Nation as a full table member from the beginning.

As a member of the Prince Rupert Inter-Agency Management Committee the Northern Development Commission regularly participated in the review of major initiatives on land use and resource concerns in the Northwest.

making it happen

northern development commission

agriculture

agriculture

Agro-Forestry Conference

- Designed around the theme "Forestry for the Future" and using the experience of a variety of entrepreneurs, this conference explored the potential of growing alternate crops, intercropping, value-added potential and small woodlands program on non-industrial private lands.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with funding as a gold sponsor along with Human Resource Development Canada, the College of New Caledonia, the Village of Burns Lake, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Ministry of Forests and Babine Forest Products. Presenters encouraged promotion of alternative uses of forest lands and introduction of new crops.

Pine Mushroom Feasibility Study

- Pine mushrooms in the Skeena area are a very lucrative agri-forestry product, with the major market being in Japan.
- Members of the Gitanyow community have been participating in the enterprise of shipping the raw product to wholesalers in Vancouver for sale in Japan for over 20 years.
- The Northern Development Commission formed a partnership with the community to study options for increasing local content in the entire business process.
- As a result, the community has found a Japanese wholesaling partner who has agreed to assist the community in developing graders.
- The community and wholesalers are also exploring opportunities to add value to the lower grade mushrooms in the area.

Gitsegukla Hemp Project

- Three years ago, Gitsegukla identified an opportunity to grow hemp commercially and succeeded in obtaining a licence for research purposes.
- The University of British Columbia and the band conducted two years of research that confirmed the feasibility of such an enterprise.
- The Northern Development Commission helped to create a business plan for the commercial operation. The community is now developing a funding strategy for a commercial operation.

economic development

Cariboo Economic Action Forum (CEAF)

- CEAF was initiated in 1994 to develop an economic action plan for the Cariboo-Chilcotin (Cariboo Forest Region) and to help the region influence major government initiatives.
- CEAF continues to play an important role in forging alliances to meet regional economic development goals.
- The Northern Development Commission has been working closely with CEAF on a number of projects and co-sponsored the 6th Annual Stakeholders Conference October 15-16, 1999.

Prince George Business Incubator

- The resources of the Innovation Centre and Community Futures were used to develop the idea of a business incubator.
- Once established, the business incubator will be a place where entrepreneurs can find support for prototype development, financing, developing marketing strategies, and gaining access to international customers.
- The Northern Development Commission contributed to the cost of contracting the expert consultants (The Gateway Group of Philadelphia).
- After consulting with stakeholders, a business plan was developed.
- Recent work has involved fine-tuning and updating the business plan and the project is now in the fundraising stage.

Business: The Next Generation (College of New Caledonia)

- Business: The Next Generation (BNG) is an innovative entrepreneurship program that has been offered for four years, initially to youth, and now to anyone interested in self-employment as a career.
- The program is delivered through a partnership between the College of New Caledonia and the Community Futures Development Corporation of Fraser Fort George.
- BNG provides a blend of academic study and real business exposure while providing six credits towards a Marketing Management Diploma.
- The Northern Development Commission co-funded the program in 1999/2000.

Rural Youth Dialogues (In Partnership with Rural Team B.C.)

- A series of eight rural youth dialogues was held throughout B.C. to identify key challenges and opportunities for youth in rural B.C.
- This information will assist in the development of individual and co-operative initiatives to assist youth in addressing labour market and social development issues.
- The Northern Development Commission, in co-operation with Human Resource Development Canada, Status of Women Canada, Canadian Rural Partnerships and the Community Development Association planned and implemented three northern youth dialogues held in Houston (including Burns Lake and Smithers), Prince Rupert, Fort St. John and Quesnel.
- A report identifying key findings from the dialogues has been widely distributed and will likely influence program development at the local, provincial and federal levels.

Telkwa Location Film File

- The Village of Telkwa was approached by other communities in the northwest to participate in the development of a location library for film production in the region.
- The Northern Development Commission provided funding to catalogue possible locations for a film library in Prince George.
- The Community continues to participate in a Northern Film Commission, located in Prince George and hosted by the Prince George Film Commission.
- Requests for library files from the Telkwa region have already been received.

Tumbler Ridge Economic Development and Marketing Strategy

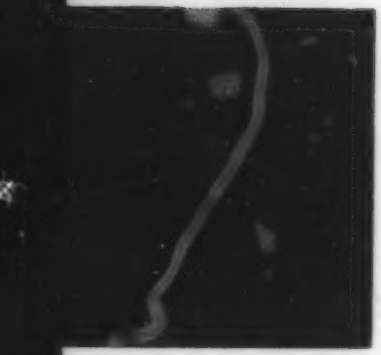
- Tumbler Ridge is in the midst of significant economic and social change due to a huge reduction in coal production.
- The community recognized the need to develop alternative economic development strategies and a plan to market the community to prospective investors.
- The Northern Development Commission co-sponsored the study that identified potential opportunities for development.
- The District of Tumbler Ridge will work with government and industry to attract potential investors to the community.

Northwest Corridor Development Corporation (Trade Corridor Capacity Study)

- The Northwest Corridor Development Corporation (NCDC) was officially established as a Canadian not-for-profit organization in 1998.
- The NCDC promotes awareness of trade synergy and efficiencies of the northwest corridor (in the region of the 54th parallel).
- The northern development commissioner sits on the board of NCDC.
- NCDC has a growing membership of private and public sector representatives, including utilities, transportation companies, manufacturers, labour groups, all three levels of government, and individuals.
- The Northern Development Commission supports the work of the NCDC and co-funded the preparation of a report detailing the strengths, advantages and opportunities of the corridor.

Fort Nelson Local Marketing Strategy

- The Fort Nelson Regional Economic Task Force has a broad mandate to establish the Fort Nelson region as a recognized entity in northeast B.C., empower area industry, market itself strategically, and build a cohesive driving force whose job is to identify and mitigate specific impediments to the region's economic development.
- In August 1999, the Economic Task Force developed a goods and services database, a marketing strategy for the region and a local Web site to communicate the projects and progress of the Fort Nelson Regional Economic Task Force.
- The Northern Development Commission co-sponsored the project and provided advice and direction as requested.
- By the end of this reporting period, the ETF has made significant progress on the marketing strategy and database.



Tl'azt'en Nation Economic Development Plan

- The Tl'azt'en Nation recognized its need for a long-term strategic plan for economic development.
- The Northern Development Commission co-funded a strategic planning session for the Tl'azt'en Nation, producing a report "Strategic Plan for Tl'azt'en Economy and Resources", outlining a framework of objectives for future action.

Village of Telkwa Community Business Plan

- The Village of Telkwa requested support from the Northern Development Commission to assist in creating business options for the community.
- The Northern Development Commission co-funded a strategic planning exercise.
- Much of the work needed to establish a community economic development plan has been completed and the community of Telkwa aims to have the approved plan in place by the end of 2000.

Valemount Hot Springs and Canoe Cove Proposal Evaluation and Feasibility Study for Canoe Mountain Tram Project

- The Village of Valemount has taken a keen interest in economic diversification, driven in part by declining revenues in the dominant forest industry.
- Due to its location in the Rocky Mountains, tourism is the natural choice for further development.
- Valemount is poised to see significant investment by a number of tourism developers.
- The high level of interest in investment results from a decade of planning and support from the municipal council and administration.
- The Northern Development Commission funded the vetting of development proposals and continues to play a supportive role in seeing the development progress.
- The Northern Development Commission also supported Valemount's bid to be named a Gateway Community and its application for funding from the Community Enterprise program to hire a project manager.

Joint Venture Workshops

- A number of economic development practitioners identified that it would be important to conduct First Nations/Non-native joint venture seminars in various communities across the North.
- West Coast Strategic Planning, the successful bidder for the program, conducted two seminars in the fiscal year. One in Fort St. John and one in Terrace.
- The events, held in January 2000, were designed to create a working atmosphere for the entrepreneurs to discuss opportunities and basic information for joint venture options.
- The process allowed participants to develop an understanding of the concerns and aspirations of each party attending the workshop.
- Workshop evaluations were positive and it was decided to continue the program in the new fiscal year.

Economic Performance of Northern B.C. Communities Study

- The Northern Development Commission contracted a study to provide baseline information about the relative economic performance of northern B.C. communities.
- The study, conducted by Dr. Paul Bowles (UNBC) finds that income growth in the northern regions has been slower than the rest of the province, with deeper declines.
- While some community characteristics point to differing rates of growth, the data on well-defined relationships between economic performance and community characteristics is inconclusive.

Community Enterprise Program

- The Community Enterprise Program (CEP) represents an inter-ministry effort to help coastal, rural, urban and resource-dependent communities in B.C. to diversify and strengthen their economies and increase self-reliance through collaborative local partnerships.
- The Northern Development Commission was pleased to assist the Ministry of Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers in the delivery of the CEP in Northern British Columbia.
- The CEP has two main components:
- The first is the Community Business Development Program that provides matching contributions for community-based agencies that have some resources but require additional expertise and funds. The funding is for project activities such as opportunity identification, analysis and planning, and project implementation that will have a positive, lasting effect on the local economy.
- The second component is the Community Capacity Building Program that supports community-led projects that create social and economic opportunities for people who are marginalized.
- The Community Capacity Building Program provides contributions for innovative community projects that involve enterprise and self-employment development, access to capital for micro-enterprise, or capacity building (learning, training or skill development).
- During 1999/2000, the Community Enterprises Program approved Community Capacity Building funding of $415,373 and Community Business Development funding of $225,711.
- In all, 13 projects in Northern B.C. received funding of $641,084.

energy

Oil and Gas Week

- The City of Fort St. John hosted a successful conference with topics covering oil and gas issues in May 1999.
- The Northern Development Commission co-sponsored Oil and Gas Week which showcased the oil and gas sector and its contribution to the region.
- About 150 delegates attended the conference and many more visited the trade show.

Northeast B.C. Aboriginal Business Association

- The Northeast B.C. Aboriginal Business Association was established in May 1999 to enhance opportunities for local aboriginal people to access contracts in the resource industry in Northeast B.C.
- The Northern Development Commission and the Oil and Gas Commission provided start-up funding for the association.

Coal Trade Study (B.C. Rail Partnership)

- Northern Development Commission and BC Rail contracted a study on the coal trade.
- The report "Outlook for International Coal Trade" provides valuable information and forecasts on coal production and international shipping and helps put the B.C. coal industry on the global map.

fishing

fishing

Seafood Expo

- The Seafood Development Office, part of the Skeena -- Queen Charlotte Regional District, is responsible for the development of alternative seafood opportunities for communities on the North Coast.
- The Seafood development Office organized Seafood Expo to showcase products and provide a discussion forum on the seafood industry in the Prince Rupert area.
- The Expo raises awareness of seafood alternatives on the North Coast and provide small business entrepreneurs a venue to display their products.
- The 1999 Expo was the second annual Expo and is increasingly popular. There were many presenters and a great variety and quantity of products for the public to sample.
- The Seafood Development Office has confirmed its expectation that the Seafood Expo will become an annual event.

Shellfish Mariculture

- The Seafood Development Office, based in Prince Rupert, has the mandate to explore alternative opportunities for the seafood market in the North Coast area.
- The Seafood Development Office works with shellfish growers to identify species and markets for their products.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted with funding for a marketing analysis of Seafood products in Northern British Columbia.
- A report was delivered to the Seafood Office and the Mariculture Committee. Information from the report proved very valuable for organizations looking to establish a commercial seafood operation.
- More work will be done during the coming year to deal with other aspects of the seafood business.

forestry

Touch Wood (1999 Northern Wood Forum)

- Attracting interest and participation from a vast area that comprises the top three-quarters of the province, the Northern Wood forum in Houston featured a hugely successful student woodcraft competition.
- An adjudicated exhibition of regional woodcrafters' work with an industry exhibit of value-added products attracted great interest.
- Organized around the theme "Room to Grow," the workshops focused on marketing, product development and forest ecology.
- The three-day event, held April 22-24 in Houston, attracted 50 woodcrafters, 300 delegates, and 5,000 visitors to the exhibits.
- The Northern Development Commission contributed to the costs of bringing speakers and panel participants to the conference.

growth manufacturing

Post and Beam Feasibility Study

- The Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs are researching alternatives to current house construction by identifying more economical methods of constructing quality housing for their community.
- The Northern Development Commission co-funded an investigation into post-and-beam construction methods. This project was initiated in the 1998-99 fiscal year and concluded in the 1999-2000 fiscal year.
- The completed report provided valuable information on costs and the expertise required to construct post-and-beam housing.
- Community members have learned construction techniques from an instructor on Vancouver Island.
- Plans are now underway to secure the funding to build a post and beam home in the community and to assess the design.

Saik'uz Log Home Manufacturing

- The Saik'uz First Nation embarked on a strategy to develop and market log houses through the Native Canadian Log Builders company.
- The Northern Development Commission co-sponsored the development of a marketing package to assist the Saik'uz First Nation in their log-home building business.

Bush-Based Log Sort Business Plan Development

- The Northern Development Commission assisted the Nadleh Whut'en Band to develop a prospectus to help recruit business partners for a bush-based log sort.

oil and gas

Determining Public Interest in Entering Discussions on the Moratorium on Off Shore Oil and Gas Exploration

- The Northern Development Commission engaged the Conflict Managers Group to initiate public discussions regarding the Offshore Oil and Gas Moratorium.
- This consultation included interviews with over 140 residents of northwestern coastal communities.
- A report, issued September 15, 1999, concluded that further consultation should take place with other groups and individuals in British Columbia and recommended fact finding from other jurisdictions across Canada.
- The next phase of this consultation process would begin in May 2000.

business small business

Island Mountain Arts Tonewood Conference

- The town of Wells, established as a 1930s mining town, wants to attract environmentally friendly business and build on its reputation as a centre for the creative arts.
- The land surrounding the town has the potential to produce high quality tone wood, desirable in instrument making.
- At Forintek, the Northern Development Commission co-funded research on the properties of Englemann Spruce fibre and market research on the export potential of products and instruments manufactured in Wells.
- The community is developing its instrument manufacturing capability and continues to research markets for its products.

Dawson Creek Food Processing Facility Feasibility Study

- The Kiwanis Enterprise Centre in Dawson Creek along with the Peace Value Added Food and Agriculture Association spearheaded a project in partnership with community stakeholders to create an agri-food incubator / community kitchen in Dawson Creek.
- The Northern Development Commission co-funded a feasibility study for the project.
- The completed study was received toward the end of the reporting period and will assist in making informed decisions as to future steps.

telecommunications network

Prince George Integrated Community Network

- This project promotes a multi-media approach to the marketing of goods and services in the Prince George region.
- Support from the Northern Development Commission was used to promote the Integrated Community Network as a whole, and specifically to develop the e-commerce incubator application.
- In addition to the Web site, the Integrated Community Network developed printed promotional materials and sent representatives to trade fairs.
- Once the network is fully operational, the ultimate goal is to increase business for Prince George companies and to build a sophisticated network marketing the region's products and services.

tourism

tourism

Heritage Trails Project

- The Kaska Dena Council is researching and developing a plan to designate a number of heritage trails in the region of the Rocky Mountain trench.
- The Northern Development Commission responded to a proposal for assistance with the development of the Davie Trail and a review of the trail's potential for inclusion as part of the Trans-Canada Trail system.

Yellowhead Highway Association

- The Yellowhead Highway Association is focused on developing the Trans-Canada Yellowhead Highway to its ultimate potential and marketing its tourism and economic development possibilities to people regionally, nationally and internationally.
- The Northern Development Commission assisted the association through co-funding phase two of the Team Yellowhead Tourism Marketing Project.
- The project markets the highway corridor as a travel and tourism destination, promoting attractions and amenities across the corridor.

Highway 37 North Tourism Conference

- The District of Stewart, with the assistance of 16/37 Community Futures, hosted a Highway 37/37A tourism conference in November 1999.
- The conference brought together many tourism operators and groups to discuss improving tourism on the Stewart-Cassiar Highway.
- The conference reached agreement to develop a co-ordinated plan to improve and market tourism.
- A committee was elected to pursue funding options and continue with developing the strategy. This committee will work with operators and communities to increase tourism along the length of Highway 37 to the Yukon border.

Stuart Nechako Tourism Conference

- Sponsored by Community Futures Development Corporation of Stuart-Nechako, and partly funded by the Northern Development Commission, the goal of the conference was to explore the potential for developing tourism in the area.
- Educational sessions featured speakers with expertise in both regional tourism and target marketing.
- The conference ended with a proposal that the Regional Tourism Association be formed.
- Feedback on the content and outcome of the conference has been positive. The focus for the future is to enhance tourist sector revenues and expand job opportunities within tourism.

Houston Tourism Marketing Study

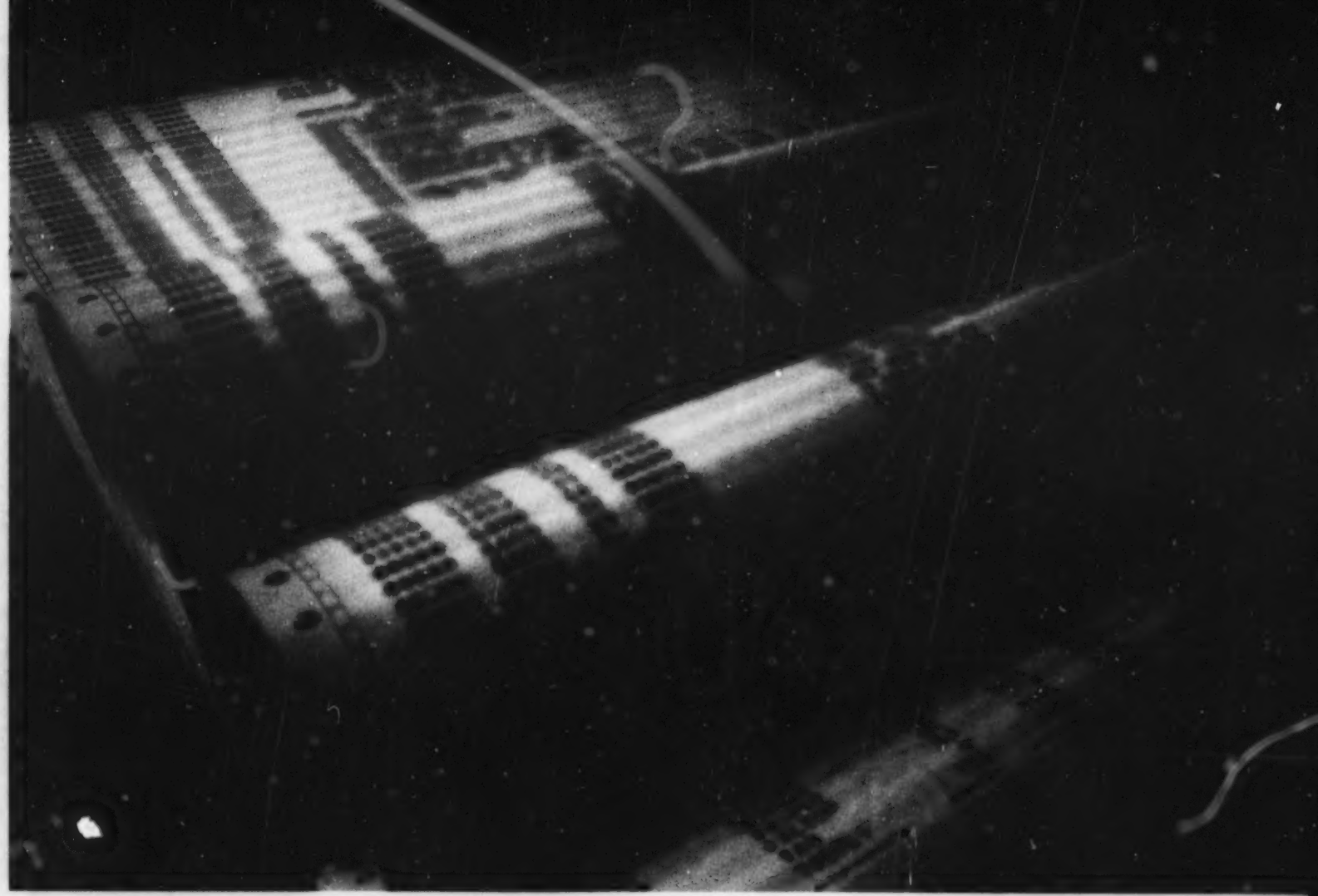
- The District of Houston and the Houston Chamber of Commerce initiated a Tourism Marketing Strategy to use existing tourist information to create specific strategies for the community.
- The Northern Development Commission contributed to the consulting fees for this project.
- The result is 10 key strategies, ranked by criteria such as uniqueness and highest potential, to be pursued by the District of Houston.
- The community is reviewing the recommendations and assessing the best way to implement them.

Alaska Highway Signage Project

- The Northern Development Commission co-funded a study undertaken by the Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism Association to consider enhancing signage along the Alaska Highway.
- Highway traffic tends to be flow-through traffic and the Association is exploring ways to extend the length of stay and positive impact of tourism opportunities in the region.

Tourism Opportunity Studies

- Various communities advised the Northern Development Commission that a key component of development in the North was tourism. There were concerns that the region was lagging in terms of continued growth in the industry.
- As a result, the Northern Development Commission formed partnerships with the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, Forestry Renewal British Columbia, and the British Columbia Transportation Financing Authority to develop tourism opportunity studies for four regions in the North.
- The purpose of the studies was to identify opportunities for tourism assist entrepreneurs with developing a business plan for these opportunities.
- Arising from successfully completed studies for the North Coast, the Cassiar Iskut Stikine, the Kalum, and the Robson Valley regions, it is anticipated that the Northern Development Commission and SBTC will conduct three additional studies in the new fiscal year.



finances

financial record

Statement of Expenditure 1999 - 2000

Salaries/Benefits	$ 564,734
Operating Costs	$ 370,002
Grants	$ 146,610
Contributions	$ 156,637
Contracts	$ 194,290
Other	$ 477
Capital Assets (Information Systems)	$ 15,874
Total Expenditure	$ 1,448,624

Note: This report covers the period April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000.

grants

grants

Recipient	Project
16 / 37 CFDC	Tourism Conference
BC Rail	Coal Trade Study
Burns Lake Community Economic	Agro-Forestry Conference
Cariboo Economic Action Forum	Stakeholders' Conference
City of Fort St. John	Oil & Gas Week
College of New Caledonia	Business: The Next Generation
Community Futures Development Association	Rural Youth Dialogues
Community Futures Development - Stuart Nechako	Tourism Conference
Community Futures Development Corporation	Business Incubator
Kaska Dena Council	Heritage Trails Project
Northeast BC Aboriginal Business Association	Aboriginal Contractors' Registry
Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism	AGM / Tourism Rendezvous
Northern Wood Forum	Touch Wood 1999
Northern Wood Forum	Touch Wood 2000
Prince George Public Interest Research	Northern Alternatives Conference
Regional District of Skeena - Queen Charlottes	Seafood Expo
Seafood Development Office	Shellfish Mariculture
University Resources Inc	Enterprise Facilitator
Yellowhead Highway Association	WED Funding

contribution agreements

Recipient	Project
Aboriginal Business Development	Conduct Joint Venture Workshop
District of Tumbler Ridge	Economic Development Revitalization & Marketing Study
Fort Nelson Regional Economic Task Force	Strategy to Market Goods in Region
Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs	Pine Mushroom Feasibility Study
Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs	Post & Beam Feasibility Study
Gitsegukla Hemp Corp.	Feasibility Study
Houston & District Chamber	Tourism Marketing Study
Island Mountain Arts Society	Tone Wood Forum
Kiwanis Enterprise Centre	Feasibility Study - Food Processing Facility
Nadleh Whut'en Band	Business Plan
Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourism	Feasibility Study for Enhanced Signage on Alaska Highway
Northwest Corridor Development Corporation	Report on Corridor
Prince George Integrated Community	PG E-Commerce Incubator Initiative
Saik'uz First Nation	Floor Plan / Catalogue / Working Drawings / Website Design
Tl'azt'en Nation	Economic Development Plan
Village of Telkwa	Community Business Plan
Village of Valemount	Feasibility Study for Tram Project on Canoe Mountain
Village of Valemount	Review Hot Springs & Canoe Mountain Proposals

contracts

Recipient	Purpose
ADT Security	Security Alarm in Office
Westcoast Strategic Planning Inc.	Joint Venture Seminars
SBTC Contract	Tourism Opportunity Studies
National Speakers Bureau (Frank Ogden)	Agricultural Symposium
University of Northern BC	Economic Performance of Northern BC Communities
Denis & Muntener Advertising Ltd.	Northern Development Commission Web Page
Sanlaing Communications Ltd.	Oil & Gas Moratorium Consultations

conferences

conferences

Northern Development Commission participation in regional, provincial & national conferences.

April 8 - 9, 1999	Northern Forest Products Association, Prince George, B.C.
April 22 - 24, 1999	Touch Wood, Houston B.C.
April 29 - May 1, 1999	North Central Municipalities Association, Dawson Creek, B.C.
April 28 - May 1, 1999	Rural Forum, Brandon, Man.
May 12 - 14, 1999	Premier's Summit, 108 Mile Ranch, B.C.
May 12 - 14, 1999	Minerals North Conference, Stewart, B.C.
May 26 - 28, 1999	Oil and Gas Week, Fort St. John, B.C.
September 17 - 19, 1999	Rural Community Survival Conference, Valemount, B.C.
September 28 - October 1, 1999	UBCM, Vancouver, B.C.
October 14 - 15, 1999	Cariboo Economic Action Forum, 100 Mile House B.C.
October 28 - 29, 1999	Tackling Northern Realities, Prince George, B.C.
October 15 - 17, 1999	Spirit of Tourism, Vancouver, B.C.
October 7 - 8, 1999	Structuring Oil and Gas Ventures with Aboriginal Communities, Calgary Alta.
November 4 - 6, 1999	Culture, Heritage & Science, Prince George, B.C.
November 4 - 6, 1999	Highways 37 & 37 A, Stewart, B.C.
November 19, 1999	Central Interior Wood Processors Association - AGM, Prince George, B.C.
November 19 - 20, 1999	Business & Technology Show, Prince George, B.C.
January 20, 2000	Alaska-Canada Rail Link, Vancouver, B.C.
February 18, 2000	2000 Government Conference, Edmonton, Alta.
January 25 - 28, 2000	Cordilleron Roundup, Vancouver, B.C.
March 29 - 31, 2000	Challenge North, Grande Prairie, Alta.